

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 through 16 without prejudice and replace with the following new claims 17-29.

-- 17. A method for treating or preventing osteoporosis in a mammal, said method comprising orally administering to said mammal a pharmaceutically effective amount of ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof as a unit dosage according to a continuous schedule having a dosing interval selected from the group consisting of once-weekly dosing, twice-weekly dosing, biweekly dosing, and twice-monthly dosing. --

-- 18. A method according to claim 17 wherein said mammal is a human. --

-- 19. A method according to claim 18 wherein said dosing interval is once-weekly. --

-- 20. A method according to claim 19 wherein said unit dosage comprises from about 3.5 mg to about 200 mg, on an acid active basis, of ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof. --

-- 21. A method according to claim 20 wherein said unit dosage comprises about 35 mg, on an acid active basis, of ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof. --

-- 22. A method according to claim 20 wherein said unit dosage comprises about 40 mg, on an acid active basis, of ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof. --

-- 23. A method according to claim 20 wherein said unit dosage comprises about 45 mg, on an acid active basis, of ibandronate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof, and mixtures thereof. --